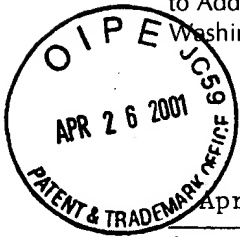


I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below in an envelope "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" mailing Label Number **EJ652270764US** addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



April 26, 2001

Date

Denise Ortega
Name

Denise Ortega
Signature

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5/5/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce M. Boman

Group: 1600

Serial No.: 09/480,389

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed : January 11, 2000

Examiner: Minh-Tam B. Davis

For : Immunoassays to Detect Diseases or Disease
Susceptibility Traits

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced patent application,
please amend the Claims as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 7, 8, 29 and 30, and amend the following claims:

Please replace Claim 1 on page 60, lines 1-21 with the following new Claim 1